

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation plate, comprising:

    a substantially rigid T-shaped plate including a head portion and a longitudinally extending shaft portion, said head portion being angled upward relative to said shaft portion,

    said head portion having upper and lower surfaces and defining an arrangement of threaded holes adapted to individually receive therein pegs having threaded heads,

    said head portion defining a first surface area on a first side of said arrangement of threaded holes of said head portion, opposite said shaft portion, and a second surface area on a second side of said arrangement of threaded holes of said head portion which is on a same side as said shaft portion, said first surface area being larger than said second surface area.

2. (original) An orthopedic fixation plate according to claim 1, wherein:

    said threaded holes define axes which are oblique relative to each other.

3. (original) An orthopedic fixation plate according to claim 1, wherein:

    said threaded holes define axes which diverge away from said lower surface of said head portion.

4. – 8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation device, comprising:  
a generally flat head portion and a longitudinally extending shaft portion angled out-of-plane relative to said head portion, said head portion having upper and lower surfaces and defining a plurality of threaded holes adapted to individually receive therein pegs having threaded heads, said threaded holes defining a plurality of axes which are oblique and divergent relative to each other and at least one of which is oblique relative to said lower surface generally surrounding its corresponding threaded hole.

10. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
said shaft portion includes at least one hole for receiving a fastener.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
all of said threaded holes are arranged along one of a line and a smooth curve.

13. (canceled)

14. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
each of said threaded holes is oblique in two dimensions relative to the others.

15. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
said plurality of threaded holes consists of exactly four holes.

16. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
said shaft portion includes at least one hole for a bone fastener.

17. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
said head portion and said shaft portion are sized and shaped for placement on the  
distal radius bone.

18. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 9, wherein:  
said shaft portion is relatively flat.

19. – 27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation device, comprising:  
a rigid plate portion and a shaft portion, said plate portion having an upper surface and a  
lower surface and including four threaded holes arranged in linear or smooth curve  
arrangement, said threaded holes defining four axes which diverge away from each other  
relative to said lower surface.

29. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 28, wherein:  
said axes of said threaded holes are arranged to follow the contour of subchondral  
bone.

30. (canceled)

31. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 28, wherein:  
said axes of said threaded holes are divergent both medial-laterally and distally.

32. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 28, wherein:  
said plate portion and said shaft portion are sized and shaped for placement at the  
distal radius bone.

33. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 28, wherein:  
said shaft portion includes at least one hole for receiving a bone fastener.

34. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 28, wherein:  
said shaft portion is relatively flat.

35. (original) An orthopedic fixation device according to claim 34, wherein:  
said shaft portion is angled relative to said plate portion.

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation system, comprising:

- a) a rigid device having an upper surface and a lower surface, said device having a head portion and a shaft portion; and
- b) a plurality of at least three elements for supporting the bone extending from said lower surface of said head portion, said elements attached to said head portion in a linear arrangement or smooth curve and being obliquely angled relative to each other and none of said elements converging in angle toward another element.

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 38 37, wherein:

    said linear arrangement is generally parallel to said shaft portion.

40. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 38 37, wherein:

    said linear arrangement is generally medial-lateral across said head portion.

41. (withdrawn) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

    said plurality of elements includes at least three elements attached to said head portion of said plate in a curvilinear arrangement.

42. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

~~said axes of said elements~~ include axes that are arranged to follow the contour of subchondral bone.

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

~~said axes of said elements~~ include axes that are divergent both medial-laterally and proximally-distally.

45. (original) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

said head portion and said shaft portion are sized and shaped for placement on the distal radius bone.

46. (original) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

said head portion is angled upwards relative to said shaft portion.

47. (original) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

said head portion and said shaft portion are in a T-shaped configuration.

48. (original) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:

said shaft portion includes at least one hole for receiving a bone fastener.

49. (previously presented) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:  
at least one of said elements is a peg which includes a threaded head which is  
coupled within a threaded hole in said head portion of said plate.

50. (previously presented) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 49, wherein:  
said peg includes a threaded shaft portion.

51. (canceled)

52. (previously presented) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:  
said elements are directly connected to said head portion.

53. (previously presented) An orthopedic fixation system according to claim 37, wherein:  
said elements are threadably attached to said head portion.